

UAE sends GCC message to Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday received a message from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on the Iran-Iraq war. Saif Sait, head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) department at the UAE Foreign Ministry, carried the message. The official Emirates News Agency WAM said the message concerned a GCC-Iran dialogue "with a view to defusing tension in the Gulf and ending the Iran-Iraq war." Tehran Radio said Mr. Velayati told Mr. Saif that the only path to true security and stability in the region was through cooperation between the Arab Gulf States and Iran. It said Mr. Saif Rashid Abdullah, saying that cooperation between the GCC and Iran would curb the influence of foreign powers in the Gulf. "We are ready for any sort of cooperation in this regard and we are optimistic about the positive results of such talks," Mr. Velayati told Mr. Saif.

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King meets Greek Orthodox patriarchs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a delegation of Greek Orthodox religious leaders, including Patriarch Bartholomew of Alexandria, Patriarch Athanasius of Antakia and Patriarch Theodosius I of Jerusalem. The patriarchs, currently on a visit to Jordan, expressed pride in visiting Amman saying that "it is the converging place of all the faithful" and stressed the brotherly relations linking followers of both Islamic and Christian faiths in Jordan. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (Fayez meets patriarchs, page 3).

Deadline extended for family books

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Registration Department (CRD) has decided to extend the deadline set for people from the occupied West Bank and Jordanian expatriates to obtain family books to Dec. 31, 1988. The decision was taken to enable the concerned people to prepare all the necessary support documents for obtaining the book. The CRD director general, Adnan Mirza, also called on all citizens eligible for voting and wishing to obtain voter cards to proceed to the CRD offices to get the card. This step, comes in implementation of Interior Ministry's decision to postpone the deadline for obtaining the voter cards until the end of this year.

Egyptian accused of spying for Israel

CAIRO (AP) — Security authorities have arrested an Egyptian teacher and accused him of spying for Israel, the semi-official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Sunday. In an unattributed report, the agency said authorities had arrested Ali Abdul Hamid Sobh Lahad, an Egyptian teacher, and accused him of "spying for Israel and supplying it with important information about the country, especially military information." The agency said he was being tried by a military court.

Gorbachev proposes summit with China

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has proposed a summit meeting with China, saying both sides were now ready for this, the official news agency TASS reported Sunday. The proposal came in an interview with the Chinese weekly Liaowang, a TASS report of which was read on the main television news. "It would be a logical development, in our view, to hold a Soviet-Chinese summit. Judging by all accounts, both sides realize the objective necessity of this. To meet each other, we can find mutually acceptable solutions — we are sure of that," TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying.

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King receives Syrian message on Gulf efforts and Palestinian revolt

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The message, delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, was believed to deal with Syria's efforts to find an end to the Iran-Iraq war and the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Sharaa, who earlier met with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the King also discussed with him the Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

Describing the protests as a heroic uprising, Mr. Sharaa said the anti-occupation revolt was "a turning point in the struggle in the occupied territories."

He told Petra that the national resistance in South Lebanon had "greatly contributed to reviving the hopes of people in the occupied Arab territories for an uprising against the occupation authorities and the Israeli oppres-



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa who delivered to His Majesty a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (Petra photo)

sion."

Mr. Sharaa said his recent talks with Gulf Arab officials had mainly focused on "the situation in the region and the importance of achieving Arab solidarity and building a united Arab stand to confront challenges facing our Arab Nation in addition to supporting the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories."

The Syrian official said Syria

"continuously exchange views with brotherly Jordan and other Arab brethren in the way of enhancing the capabilities of our Arab Nation towards confronting challenges."

Mr. Masri and Mr. Sharaa reviewed the situation in the Gulf and ongoing efforts towards an end to the Iran-Iraq war, Petra reported.

(Continued on page 3)

2 sentenced to death for murder of moneychanger

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two men were sentenced to death by a military court Sunday for the July 6 murder of a moneychanger in Amman. A third was sentenced to life imprisonment and a fourth was sentenced in absentia to 20 years in jail.

The military court said Nasser Mohammad Ali, 28, and Ahmad Salim Jumaa, 22, would be hanged for killing Mohieddin Bashti.

The third man, Ahmad Shatewi, 24, was given life imprisonment with hard labour.

The court also sentenced a fourth man to 20 years in prison as he was said to have been aware of the gang's plots and helped in carrying out their plans. The man was identified as Mohammad

Ghawamneh who was sentenced in absentia because he is still at large, the court sentence said.

The three were arrested last month and the Public Security Department (PSD) said that they confessed to the killing, and armed robbery of nearly JD 100,000 in Jordanian and foreign currency.

PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Majali, who made the announcement of the gang's capture to a press conference on December 8, 1987, said that Ali was the killer while Jumaa was the mastermind of the crime, but Shatewi provided the getaway car.

The military court sentencing has to be ratified by the military governor and approved by a Royal Decree.

Junblatt offers to return Lebanese army helicopter

MUKHTARA, Lebanon (R) — Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, seeking to avoid fresh sectarian violence, said on Sunday he would hand a stolen helicopter back to the Lebanese army.

But he told a rally he would give it to a Druze-dominated unit and it was unclear whether the Christian-led army would accept this as an end to a 12-day feud.

Addressing followers in Mukhtara, his home town in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut, the leader of mostly Druze PSP said: "As for the helicopter over which so much fuss has been made, I will give it as a present to the national Lebanese troops and army officers in the Hammana barracks..."

The donation of the helicopter is to uncoil the mounting tension and to avoid another round of violence in Lebanon."

Hammana, 28 kilometres east of Beirut, is the base of the army's 11,000-strong, Druze-dominated 11th brigade, consti-

tuted staunchly loyal to Mr. Junblatt.

The row blew up on Dec. 30 when a deserting Druze air force officer, Lieutenant Majed Karabab, flew the French-made Gazelle helicopter gunship to the Shouf, the stronghold of the Druze community, complaining that the armed forces were biased towards the Christians.

Army commanders in east Beirut, where the helicopter was based, demanded that it should be returned to them. They declined comment on Sunday by Mr. Junblatt's gesture.

Mr. Junblatt, who is minister of tourism, transport and public works, as well as other leaders of the PSP, visited Damascus on Saturday for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on ending the dispute.

Army commanders declared a blockade of PSP-held ports on Jan. 2.

Lebanese army under strain in feed, page 2.

Mubarak calls on Israel and Iran to accept peace

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived here Sunday on the second leg of a Gulf tour, coming from Saudi Arabia, where he called on Iran and Israel to accept peaceful solutions to their conflicts with the Arab World.

Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, is leading efforts by the GCC to persuade Iran to accept a negotiated end to the Iran-Iraq war, now in its eighth year.

Mr. Mubarak also warned Iran Sunday against attacking the Gulf states hosting his first tour of the Arab World as head of state and diplomats said he could be ready to boost defences in the region.

Mr. Mubarak arrived here from Riyadh, first stop of his tour of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, where he had separate talks with King Fahd and visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci (See page 2).

Mr. Mubarak told King Fahd that Egypt was committed to the security of the GCC, which links Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, a senior Egyptian official said.

"Any aggression on the GCC is an attack on Egypt... Mubarak sent a loud and clear message to the Iranians," said the official, who declined to be identified.

Addressing a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to

Israel pours soldiers into Gaza but fails to blunt resistance

• Two more Arabs, including pregnant woman, fall martyrs

Gaza Strip boils with pervasive Arab protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians died and at least 39 were wounded by army gunfire in widespread anti-occupation protests Sunday as Israel poured more troops and armoured personnel carriers into the occupied Gaza Strip.

As the protests entered its second month in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli cabinet endorsed Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's "iron fist" policy which has drawn international condemnation.

Doctors said 35-year-old Tonkan Musabbah died at Gaza's Shifa hospital after being shot at his shop in the city's Shajaya district, where demonstrators burned tyres and stoned Israeli

soldiers and vehicles. The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said a 35-year-old pregnant woman, identified as Wigdan Fari, had a miscarriage and died at a Khan Yunis hospital Sunday after being overcome by tear-gas smoke.

Relatives said the woman, who was in labour, died of suffocation.

staged anti-Israeli demonstrations and closed all or most shops in Askar and Balata refugee camps and in Nablus. Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli army imposed or extended curfews Sunday on half a dozen refugee camps and cities in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

The army also ordered the West Bank's Birzeit University closed for one month, military officials said. The university has been the site of frequent demonstrations.

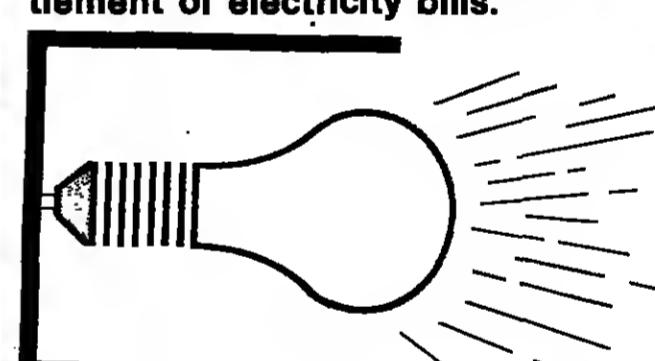
The army confirmed Sunday that a 65-year-old man from Rafah died over the weekend of gunshot wounds sustained in protests last month.

(Continued on page 3)

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The renewed diplomatic links between Libya and Tunisia after more than two years of frosty relations. The official Libyan news agency APS said Mr. Benjedid would go on to Libya from Tunis for a two-day visit starting on Monday.

Both Tuosia and Algeria, which helped to mediate the Tunis-Tripoli rapprochement, have expressed interest in the formation of a united Arab Maghreb, encompassing Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The renewed diplomatic links between Libya and Tunisia have removed one obstacle to Libya joining a friendship pact between Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania.

The three countries signed the treaty of fraternity and concord, essentially a non-aggression pact, in 1983. They met three weeks ago in Algiers to discuss broadening the pact to other countries.

Tunisian newspapers have said

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi may visit Tunis next Saturday.

Lawzi expresses gratitude to King for reappointment

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein expressing gratitude to the King for reappointing him to serve another term in his post and pledging to work under the King's guidance and directives.

"The Senate will work towards protecting the Arab Order and regaining Arab rights and holy places in the occupied Arab land, and will support Iraq in its drive to defend Arab soil," Mr. Lawzi said.

He also said that the Senate would cooperate with the executive authority to serve the Kingdom.

Conference calls for Arab agricultural coordination

CAIRO (Petra) — Participants in the First Arab Conference on Agricultural Coordination which opened here Sunday stressed the need for coordinating Arab policies on agriculture and food, with a view to achieving Arab food integration and reducing Arab food imports.

Arab imports of food totalled some \$20 billion in 1980, compared with approximately \$2 billion in 1970.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud, head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings, said that the conference aimed at opening specialised pan-Arab dialogue on food security and coordinating agricultural trade policies.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hmoud said that the conference would also discuss coordinating agricultural and economic data bases in Arab countries.

Taking part in the conference are representatives of 13 Arab countries.

Education Ministry says no plans to cancel any tawjiji questions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education does not intend to cancel any of the questions set for the mid-year tawjiji (secondary school certificate) examinations because the questions do not exceed the students' level, Ahmad Taqi, the ministry's director of examinations announced Sunday.

Mr. Taqi was responding to complaints in the local press about the difficulty of questions given to students in the past 10 days of examinations, especially in English, physics and mathematics.

He said that the students should be able to answer questions, and that ministry officials conducted daily tours of examination halls to ensure that there were no obstacles impeding the progress of the examinations.

In addition, directors of examination halls around the country filed reports about the conditions in their halls and giving assurances that the questions were not beyond the level of the students studied at school, Mr. Taqi noted.

He said that the ministry will, however, make a study of the common mistakes made on the exams, so that students can be trained to avoid them in the end-of-year examinations in June.

At least 51,783 students took the examination in seven different streams: scientific, literary, commercial, agricultural, hotel management, industrial and nursing.

Cement industries factory chief leaves for Casablanca meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Jordan Cement Industries Factory (JCIF) Khalidoun Al Thaher left for Casablanca Sunday to take part in the meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Union for Cement and Cement Products (AUCCP) due to open Tuesday.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr. Thaher said that the board would discuss the union's activities and financial report from 1987 and a plan for 1988. He said that the board would also consider applications from Arab countries for joining the union.

Dr. Thaher, who is the Chairman of the AUCCP board, is accompanied to the three-day meeting by Mr. Jamal Wishah,



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives at Al Nadwa Palace American Congressman Mel Levine. (Petra photo)

Queen chairs meeting to review Noor Al Hussein Foundation activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the first meeting for 1988 of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Board of Trustees was convened Sunday afternoon at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The board examined the financial and administrative reports reflecting the progress of the NHF's projects during the last two years, as well as the foundation's work plan and budget for 1988 and 1989.

Discussion focused on projects which will be launched and implemented during the specified time period, namely:

The Juhi School, a secondary-level, coeducational institution which will have a capacity for 600 outstanding students to be selected from schools throughout the country.

The Training Programmes for Women in Community Development and Management, which will promote and expand the contribution of women to development and decision making.

The Al Noor Project for the Development of Rural Areas, which will establish model development schemes to local communities.

The Traditional Crafts Industry, for which a centre for the training of traditional crafts has been established in the city of Salt, in cooperation with the Italian government and the Salt Development Corporation.

The Health Communications Project, which aims, through various media addresses and campaigns, to spread greater awareness of mother and child health issues.

Earlier, the board members met with the jury responsible for the Jubilee School Architectural Design Competition and reviewed the winning design and other entries.

The members of the board also visited the National Music Conservatory to observe a beginners group violin lesson. The students, between ages six and thirteen, represent a new group that has enrolled in the Violin Programme since the establishment of the conservatory — a Noor Al Hussein Foundation project — in November 1986.

The conservatory began with three instructors and 45 students, and, to date, has grown to include 12 instructors and 100 students who receive lessons in violin, viola, cello, trumpet, trombone and saxophone.

Seminar aims to improve women's management skills, work efficiency

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A woman cannot assume her role in society side by side with men unless her education and skills are developed, according to the under secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Opening a four-day seminar on participation in management Sunday, Dr. Mohammad Saqour said that Jordan believes in the principle of justice and equality between men and women, and is keen on training women and improving their professional standards so that they can participate fully in the country's economic and social development.

She explained that the seminar aims to increase women's participation in the labour market and to improve their productivity.

"The seminar on participation in management as a concept and in application aims at improving women's contributions and work efficiency," Mrs. Abdul Jaber added.

Also speaking at the seminar's opening was Mohammad Yousef, vice president of the Arab Centre for Management Development, who briefly explained participation and unionism, possible advantages of participation as a managerial device and key ideas

in participation.

He said that some advantages of increased participation would be a higher rate of output and better quality of products; a reduction in turnover, absenteeism, and employee laziness; and an improvement in manager-subordinate and manager-union relations.

Dr. Yousef said participation is mental and emotional involvement; and that it motivates contribution and encourages people to accept responsibility for their activities.

Dr. Yousef was the first lecturer at the seminar, and he discussed in more detail the concept of participation in management.

Other speakers who will lecture within the next few days are Dean of the War Academy Zubair Al Kayed, who will discuss management by objectives; Dr. Kamal Bikdash, who will discuss communication and transactional analysis; Director-General of the Institute of Public Administration Mr. Abdallah Ellayan, who will speak on management leadership; and, finally, a briefing on the new Civil Service Law will be presented by Director of the Civil Service Commission Ibrahim Izzeddin.

Mubarak calls on Israel and Iran to accept peace

(Continued from Page 1)

against Israel in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip signify a "premonition or ring the alarm bells to end the stalemate in the Palestinian case."

He rebuked Mr. Shamir for "backing down" on his predecessor's acceptance of the principle of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

"I blame Israel's prime minister... why does he reject the international conference? Why does he fear it? It will only be a (Middle East peace) case for discussion," Mr. Mubarak said.

He resented Mr. Shamir's purported demand that the 1979 U.S.-arranged Camp David framework between Egypt and Israel be reverted to as the basis for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

"He (Shamir) violated Camp David," said Mr. Mubarak. "Annerasing the Golan was a violation of Camp David, (making) Jerusalem Israel's capital was a violation of Camp David. No one should accuse us of violating Camp David, when he was the first to have violated it."

He said in response to a question that Egypt will not sever relations with or withdraw its ambassador from Israel.

"If severing relations were to solve the (Palestinian) case, then I say welcome (to this suggestion)," Mr. Muharrik argued.

"But God gave us brains to use.

Hind Abdul Jaber, president of

King receives Syrian message

(Continued from Page 1)

Petra said the two ministers discussed "reactions on the Arab and international arenas vis-a-vis the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories against Israeli occupation and oppressive and inhuman practices."

The agency did not give any details of Mr. Assad's message to the King.

Mr. Sharaa later returned home.

Syrian sources, quoted in news agency dispatches from Damascus as Mr. Sharaa headed for Amman earlier in the day, said the foreign minister was expected to brief Jordanian leaders on the progress of Syrian efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

He said: "We are concentrating specially on any joint Arab effort to help our people in the occupied territories and to enable them to steadfastly resist the occupation."

One of the boys, 13-year-old

King receives U.S. legislator, reviews situation in occupied Arab territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday reviewed with the American Congressman Mel Levine the current situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

In an audience at Al Nadwa Palace, the King stressed that the present uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was the natural outcome of the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the failure to achieve progress in efforts towards establishing peace in the region.

The audience was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, with whom he discussed the situation in the Middle East.

Senior aides to Sharif Zaid and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force were present at the meeting.

Congressmen praise King's peace efforts

Meanwhile, another American Congressional delegation currently on a visit to Jordan Sunday paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts on the Arab and international levels towards achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The Senate speaker voiced Jordan's appreciation to the U.S. for voting in favour of a Security Council resolution urging Israel to refrain from deporting Palestinians from their homeland.

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Time for Egypt to use its clout

EGYPT'S insinuation that it is considering breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel over the deterioration of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a step in the right direction. Egypt has considerable leverage with Israel, and this is the right time to use it.

As the death and casualties toll in the occupied Arab territories continues to rise, one would certainly expect Egypt to use whatever clout it has with Israel to pressure the Jewish state to stop its violations of human rights and international law.

Egypt took the strong measure of withdrawing its ambassador from Israel in protest over the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It is time again for Egypt to make clear its protest and anger over the situation in the occupied territories, in a way that would hurt Israel the most. As Israel attaches so much importance to its peace agreement with Egypt, it must be made to comprehend that the future of that cherished peace agreement hangs in the balance should Israel persist in repressing the Palestinians and continue to evade its responsibilities under the peace agreement, with regard to the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Undoubtedly, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mohammad Bassouni acted advisedly upon instructions Friday when he declared that his government could sever diplomatic relations with Israel because of the Israeli authorities' savage treatment of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. He was quoted as saying, "the future of ties between Israel and Egypt depends on the development of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." This is a most commendable reaction by Egypt; still one would have wished that Egypt had used its clout with Israel before the recent outbreak of violence in the occupied territories.

It has been almost nine years since the signing of the Camp David accords, yet nothing had been done to implement their provisions on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Normally, such a contravention of the peace agreement by Israel could be taken as legal and political grounds to suspend the agreement, if to cancel it outright.

The Arab World and the Palestinian people expect Egypt to use whatever influence it has with Israel to not only bring an end to the violence perpetrated against the Palestinians living under occupation, but also to make Israel heed the call of the international community for an expeditious end to its occupation of the Arab territories.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Cabinet reshuffle

THE reshuffle of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's cabinet is designed as a step towards re-organising the Jordanian bone within the framework of a well-studied plan. The reshuffle is a natural practice in the course of development and copes with the firm commitment of Jordan which is being wisely governed and guided by King Hussein. This change has come about because of the need for re-organisation and it truly reflects the close cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of government in Jordan and the respect for the country's constitution. Under the wise leadership of King Hussein, Jordan has been able to build a unique image for itself; marked by cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family and enjoying world wide respect. Jordan has been regarded as an oasis of stability and social and economic prosperity in the troubled Middle East region, and the successive governments of the country had been involved in maintaining continued progress and at the same time building up strong armed forces and striving to strengthen inter-Arab solidarity. All the members of the Jordanian family whether in government or as ordinary citizens shoulder different responsibilities and carry out duties that contribute to Jordan's progress.

Al Dustour: The uprising persists

AFTER the elapse of more than a month since the beginning of the uprising in the occupied territories in the face of Israel's rule, it has become clear that the Arabs are in no mood of changing heart. They are more than ever determined to maintain the struggle for freedom, offering in this process more and more sacrifices and shedding blood of their sons and daughters. The more determined the Arab masses to continue the struggle, the more embarrassed are the Israeli leaders specially as their atrocities are being condemned world-wide. There is no escape for the Israelis from facing the reality and learning a lesson from the current revolt, and they must realise that military force however long it was imposed on the Arabs, it will finally be removed by the will of the masses. Israel with all its forces now seems unable to put down the revolt, and these forces have actually driven their government into an embarrassing situation before the eyes of the world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Momentum enhanced

THE new portfolios created by the prime minister through the cabinet reshuffle, points to the great importance of the duties of the present government and its drive to maintain the momentum for greater economic and social development. The creation of a ministry to take charge of irrigation and water in Jordan reflects the government's keenness on playing its role in promoting agriculture and at the same time providing more water for different projects. The creation of a ministry to take charge of culture and national heritage reflects the government's intention to promote the process of culture and to project Jordan's image to the world. It is also obvious that the creation of a ministry for tourism reflects the government's concern over stimulating the tourism industry and attracting more foreign visitors to the country's historical and archaeological sites. The reshuffle is therefore a move that came in response to the Kingdom's needs and requirements in the course of building up the country's economy.

Adding a nail to Camp David's coffin

By Waleed Sadi

THE aftermath of the popular uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip could very well end up being another nail in the coffin of the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel. After nine years on its signing by the two countries, the agreement has very little to show for except the frigid peace that barely exists between the two countries and the on again off uprisings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The lack of any progress on the negotiations envisaged in the fragile peace agreement on the occupied territories had already led many observers to conclude that the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord is bankrupt and unable to fulfill its many objectives. That it is barren is borne out by Cairo's reliance on the projected international peace conference idea to pursue the peace process in the Middle East rather than on the basis of the Camp David Accords. Even the Israeli Labour Party has all but given up on the Camp David Accords as a vehicle to affect and realise a peace agreement on the Arab occupied territories especially the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the subject of the continuing Palestinian popular revolt. Labour leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been most vociferous in his support for the international peace idea ostensibly to propel the peace process forward. In fact, he and his party have been saying very little on behalf of the Camp David peace agreement in the last few years as if signaling their acceptance of the verdict of history that the accords have indeed reached a dead end. Only the Likud Party through its leader, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, have been voicing a muted appeal to revert to its methodology in a desperate attempt to breathe new life into it. After all, these accords are the offsprings of the Likud Party on which its whole strategic thinking and projection have been based. It is to be expected that the Likud Party in Israel will try even mouth to mouth resuscitation to bring

life into it again. If this is the true state of affairs of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel and the international peace conference idea is still elusive for one reason or another, where and how could the parties concerned proceed especially in the wake or rather in the midst of the ever increasing intensity of the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On the international scene there are encouraging signs that world public opinion is moving rapidly in favour of the Arab side of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The January 6 United Nations Security Council resolution is truly a landmark in U.N. involvement in the Palestinian case in the sense that the United States has abandoned Israel and swerved from its traditional role as a "shock-absorber" of international condemnation of Israeli practices and a "buffer" to deflect world criticism against it. The remarkable description of Palestinian refugee conditions in Gaza by British junior minister in charge of the Middle East affairs David Mellor as an "affront to civilised values," sums up the emerging attitude of even the staunchest allies of Israel on the events in the Arab occupied territories. Mr. Mellor's diagnosis of the cycle of violence in the occupied territories as due primarily to Israel's policy of "drift and limbo," can even be upgraded in order to attribute the responsibility for the collapse of the elusive peace process to international "drift and limbo," as well. "How long are people going to think that 1.5 million people can just be kept under the point of a gun," was the potent and focal question that Mr. Mellor addressed to the Israelis during his recent fact finding tour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which could have very well been addressed to the whole world at large. The inertia demonstrated over and over again by the international and regional parties, with regard to the Palestinian case is obviously leading to the catastrophe that we are all

witnessing now in the Arab occupied territories.

I think that we have now a new ball game in our midst which requires "shifting gears," as it were, or even a reshuffle of the card game to reflect and take into consideration the developments that occurred in the Arab occupied territories in the last few weeks. The peace process or even the quest for the international peace conference can no longer be pursued in isolation of the on-going events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and their lessons and implications. This is a time for the world and the Arab parties to re-examine their strategies and review their positions with regard to the most effective ways and means to affect a real movement in the peace process in the Middle East. Above all, these events and their implications would call on Israel to reconsider its whole attitude and perspective on the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict. But would Israel heed the dictates of the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and learn from their lessons? Although it is premature to know the answer to this question, there are already more voices within Israel than ever demanding a genuine confrontation with reality. The time of reckoning it seems has arrived in Israel and no amount of semantics or self-delusions would salvage Israel from its dilemma. Israel is truly drowned up to its head with currents and under currents. While it had defeated Arab armies on more than one occasion within a span of few days, it has yet to subdue the popular uprising in its midst, despite the passing of over one month on the eruption. Possibly it may eventually succeed in "crushing" the Palestinian revolt by brute force but it will never succeed in muting the spirit that ignited it. It is there and will be there forever till Israel comes into grips with the bitter reality that no people can colonise another people forever.

Palestine Press Service: Voice of Palestinian resistance

By Sergei Shargorodsky

The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A small office featuring a portrait of Che Guevara and pictures of black slaves driven by white masters has become a vital source of news on fast-breaking events in remote West Bank villages and Gaza refugee camps.

A voice over the phone announces: "This is the Palestine Press. We have a news bulletin for you." This may be the first word of a violent demonstration, a firebomb attack or the shooting by Israelis of an Arab protester.

The Arab-owned Palestine Press Service (PPS) receives its information through a network of reporters, freelancers and volunteers in the occupied territories, said Elias M. Zananiri, the PPS managing editor.

The PPS regards itself as an organ of the Palestine nationalist movement, reflecting the opinion of Palestinians in the occupied territories. For a monthly subscription fee of several hundred dollars, the PPS provides telex services to some Western embassies and about 25 foreign news organisations.

Some journalists, who have no telex machines at their offices, come to the PPS for news bulletins, Zananiri said in an interview

at his office in Arab East Jerusalem.

Its views are clear from the dispatches it publishes both in its press service and the weekly Al Awdah magazine, which appears in English and Arabic. After a clash between Bethlehem University students and Israeli troops, in which one student was killed and leading to a three-month closure of the university, Al Awdah reported:

"There is an important inference that army-student confrontation almost automatically results in injury and death. In the same fashion, closures of universities are no longer regarded as exceptional measures. We loudly protest the drastic measures taken by the military authorities in closing the university for three months."

There are a half-dozen Arabic daily newspapers in East Jerusalem and a smattering of weeklies, but without Arab-run radio stations in the occupied territories the PPS is virtually the only source of breaking news.

"Our telephone tips are not to be taken for granted. We often have no time to double check because they concern hot events. If it comes from our reporters, we tend to go ahead," Zananiri said.

"But over the years, we managed to establish our credibility,"

he added.

The Israeli authorities clamped down on the PPS several years after its founding late in 1977 by Raimonda Tawil, a Palestinian attorney and political activist.

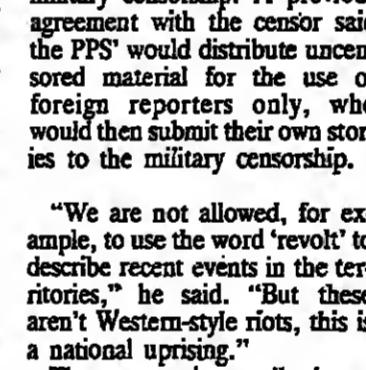
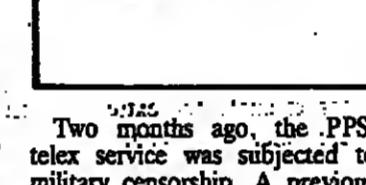
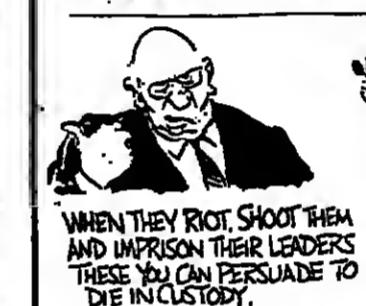
In 1982, the military censor banned publication of a PPS daily newsletter. The Al Awdah magazine cannot be distributed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip because the publishers have been unable to get a permit.

In November, the army ordered Radwan Abu Ayyash, editor of the Al Awdah Arabic version and head of the Arab Journalists Association, held in jail for six months without trial under an administrative detention order.

An Israeli army source alleged at the time that Abu Ayyash was paid by their main Fatah branch of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and carried out activities "that have nothing to do with journalism."

"This was aimed not only at our office but at the freedom of expression in general. It was a blow to the whole Palestinian press," Zananiri said.

Ibrahim Karaeen, the PPS' owner, has said the measure "shows how much the Israeli authorities have become sensitive even to the press."



Two months ago, the PPS

telex service was subjected to military censorship. A previous agreement with the censor said the PPS would distribute uncensored material for the use of foreign reporters only, who would then submit their own stories to the military censor.

"We are not allowed, for example, to use the word 'revolt' to describe recent events in the territories," he said. "But these aren't Western-style riots, this is a national uprising."

The agency is usually hours

ahead of the army spokesman in reporting on events and regularly beats state and army radios.

"We also have a problem of access," Zananiri said. "Arab reporters can be detained if they cover a demonstration, and the army would say they took part in it."

Other PPS sources include "people who call us voluntarily or taxi drivers who drive from one Palestinian village to another," he said. Zananiri said that such information can become distorted by rumours.

The recent uprising, for inst-

ance, were sparked after rumours that the deaths of four Arabs

struck by an Israeli military truck on Dec. 8 was a deliberate act of revenge for the stabbing death of an Israeli businessman.

"A couple of days ago, I got an anonymous phone call, and this person told me that two people were shot dead by Israeli troops in Gaza city," Zananiri said.

"I ordered our reporter to check," he continued, "and he found that the sound of shooting came from fireworks that some children decided to put inside the tires they set ablaze."

Discontent with U.S. military bases grows across the world

By Robert Kearns

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Discontent with U.S. military bases is emerging around the world in a "Yankee go home" trend unmatched since the 1960s, and American officials predict Portugal will soon join the list of unhappy host countries.

Not since the 1960s, when France booted out U.S. and other NATO military forces, has the message "Yankee go home" — or be prepared to pay more for the privilege of staying — been so widespread.

Here, in brief, are some of the problems facing U.S. negotiators in trying to maintain U.S. bases abroad:

Congress last year rejected \$30 million in military aid in a supplemental appropriation bill that was to be added to \$147 million in economic aid.

In consequence, the U.S. sources said they expected the Lisbon government in February to invoke a clause in the bases agreement allowing it to review arrangements with Washington even though the agreement runs until 1991.

"They feel there is a financial imbalance and they want it fixed," one administration official said.

Speaking on condition that he not be named, the official said he hoped American use of the strategically-placed Lajes air base in the Azores could be saved.

But he was not as optimistic about a series of lingering disputes over other U.S. bases raised by most governments in countries such as Spain, the Phi-

ippines, Greece and Turkey. Even the tiny island-state of Mauritius is upset with the nearby presence of the U.S. military in the Indian Ocean.

U.S. officials have attributed the discontent over the American military outposts to rising nationalism, leftist pressure, anti-American feelings and plain greed.

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Anti-Israeli protestations in Italy worry Jews

By Jennifer Parmelee

The Associated Press

ROME — Security has been stepped up at Rome's main synagogue after a series of recent anti-Semitic outbursts that have alarmed members of Italy's Jewish community, officials have said.

Five members of a neo-fascist youth group, the Fronte Della Gioventù, were arrested on Jan. 6 after they were found scrawling anti-Semitic graffiti, most of it related to the Israeli crackdown on Arab demonstrations in the occupied territories, in a Rome piazza.

"Zionists-assassins, free Palestine," read one graffiti that spurred the arrests, newspapers reported Jan. 8. Similar writings were also found in Milan and Bologna, while the Rome synagogue reported receiving threatening phone calls and telegrams.

U.S. to bury Star Wars' super punch

A new U.S. project involves creating a gigantic reservoir of electrical power, buried deep in rock. David Fishtick explains the plan, created out of a Strategic Defence Initiative need for great bolts of electricity on tap.

PICTURE an enormous electricity store with the current going round forever in a superconducting magnet the size of a football pitch. This power reservoir, measuring 100 metres across, would be buried deep in rock to contain the immense magnetic forces which try to explode the energised coils.

It is a project under consideration in the U.S. and one of the main driving forces behind it is the Strategic Defence Initiative, the so-called Star Wars research programme. For if the speed-of-light weapons, such as laser beams, envisaged by the SDI are to work, they will require great bolts of electricity constantly on tap.

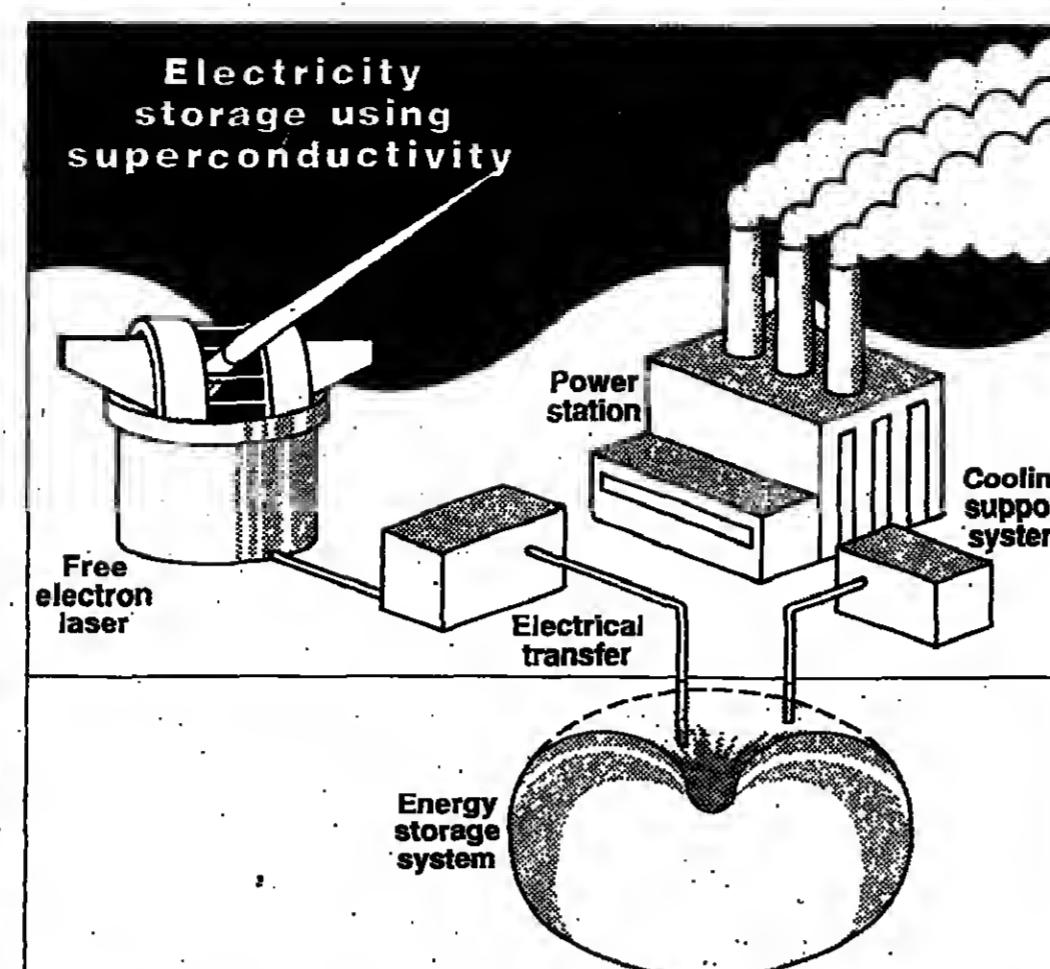
And there could be other advantages to the system. If successful, it could provide an alternative to the very few options an electricity company has for storing its product, notably pumped storage and fuel cells.

The idea is to use today's ultra-cold superconducting technology in a large-scale engineering demonstration of a system the economics of which could improve appreciably if and when "warm" superconductors become available.

Superconductors in commercial use today are materials which lose their electrical resistance at extremely low temperatures. The latest "warm" superconductors under research lose their resistance at higher temperatures, which are easier and cheaper to achieve.

The opportunities that the technology presents mean that the U.S. electricity industry is keen to host the demonstration, even though it is not willing to put up funds. The main source of finance for the prototype project, expected to cost around \$80 million, will therefore be the SDI.

Paul Robinson, principal scientist with Ebasco Services, the New York engineering consultants, says SDI scientists are talking of weapon power requiring 1,000-megawatt bursts of electricity lasting about 100 seconds. Addressing a conference on challenges for the electricity industry, organised by The Energy Daily in Washington recently, Robinson disclosed that his company was part of a consortium bidding for



the present electrical losses, he says.

For the prototype store, the idea is to try to design it so that, should the new ceramic-based "warm" superconductors become available, they might be substituted for today's metallic ones.

Hahn cautions, however, that "a lot of creative materials engineering is going to have to be done." He foresees "very profound difficulties" in pushing beyond liquid nitrogen-cooled superconductors, to room temperature or higher, where really big benefits might be realised.

The present "warm" materials have a current-carrying capacity of 1,000-10,000 times too low, and other severe shortcomings, such as their sensitivity to moisture. Hahn forecasts that another decade will probably pass before any prototypes of power engineering systems are made from these higher temperature superconductors. But some electronic applications may appear within only two or three years, particularly if there is military pressure, for example for extremely fast computer processing, he says.

John Hahn was chairman of a top-level scientific committee set up by the National Science Foundation to report to the U.S. government on prospects for "warm" superconductors. Its report, just published, advises the government to step up its research spending from about \$30 million last year to about \$100

million in 1988.

The table accompanying this article contains the panel's opinion of potential applications for which superconducting technology is "proven" but not yet economically attractive.

The Hahn report identified eight major science and technology objectives which would help a national research and development programme to exploit "warm" superconductors. They were:

— Improve understanding of the essential properties of present "warm" superconducting materials, including their AC current losses.

— Develop an understanding of the basic mechanism responsible for superconductivity in the new materials.

— Search for additional materials showing superconductivity at higher temperature, by synthesis of new compositions, structures and phases.

— Prepare thin films of controllable and reproducible quality

from present materials and establish preferred methods for growing films suitable for electronic device fabrication.

— Develop bulk superconductors from present materials, with special emphasis on better current-carrying capacity.

— Advance the understanding of the chemistry, chemical engineering and ceramic properties of the new materials, focusing on synthesis, processing, stability, and methods for large-scale production.

— Fabricate a range of prototype circuits and electronic devices based on superconducting microcircuits or hybrid superconducting/semiconducting circuits, as suitable thin-film technologies become available.

— Fabricate a range of prototype high field magnets, AC and DC power devices, rotating machines, transmission circuits, and energy storage devices, as suitable bulk conductors are developed — Financial Times feature.

Hahn report: Proven applications for superconductors	
Power utility applications	Transportation
Energy production (magnetohydrodynamics, magnetic fusion)	High-speed trains (magnetic levitation)
Large turbogenerators	Ship drive systems
Energy storage	Semiconducting/ superconducting hybrids, active superconducting elements
Electrical power transmission	

Natural gas fuelled-buses should help curb pollution

By Nailene Chou Wiest
Reuters

NEW YORK — The 21st century New York bus may be running on compressed natural gas, an ecologists' dream come true.

Natural gas industry groups were encouraged when the U.S. Senate's Commerce Committee recently approved a bill that would offer credits to vehicle makers who include in their fleets models that use alternate — and, in the case of gas, cleaner — fuels.

"We expect to see one to four million natural gas vehicles by the year 2010, up from about 30,000 at present," said Michael Baily, a vice president for government re-

lations at the American Gas Association (AGA), an industry group.

While cars could be converted from diesel or petrol to use natural gas, most of the market would be for buses and trucks.

Conversion of diesel vehicles to natural gas can reduce carbon monoxide emissions by up to 99 per cent and nitrogen oxide emissions by up to 65 per cent, according to AGA studies.

"It is hard to beat natural gas in air quality control," said Jim Peebles of Information Resources Inc., a Washington consulting firm.

Brooklyn Union Gas, a gas supply utility, wants to convert

otherwise unlikely to gain widespread public acceptance, industry specialists said.

"There is a bias for liquid fuels," AGA's Baily said.

Unlike liquid fuels, compressed natural gas is more difficult to handle and bulky canisters take up more space in a vehicle, said Information Resources' Peebles.

Industry analysts also say that development of natural gas vehicles will not reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies," Dosher said. "It will be just trading oil

for natural gas supply."

"In the past five years, we

consumed more (natural) gas than added to the reserve," Dosher said. "And the gas bubble is rapidly dissipating."

Granted that the United States is producing 95 per cent of the natural gas it consumes, with the balance coming from Canada, increased consumption would put a strain on the existing supply system, he said.

"Using natural gas vehicles will not reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies," Dosher said. "It will be just trading oil

import with gas imports."

Perfume lovers flock to Damascus souk

By Hala Jaber
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Amid the bustle of the souks of old Damascus, Syria's scent makers mix and match their potions to create while-you-wait perfumes that combine the best of east and west.

From a subtle Syrian version of Chanel number five to the pungent aroma of Indian Patchouli, scent makers like Talal Kanbarieh offer their customers a range of exotic choices at bargain prices.

"It just needs some taste, art and a bit of scientific knowledge," said Kanbarieh, 40, whose six-square-metre shop is a haven of tranquillity amid the hubbub of the crowded Al Boushni souk.

As the tang of spices from neighbouring herb shops mingled with the aromas of the essences and extracts ranged around him, Kanbarieh deftly combined ingredients to produce a bottle of one of the world's favourite

scents, jasmine.

Within 20 minutes, Kanbarieh made six different perfumes for a group of four Italian tourists who watched in amazement. The 36 grams of scent cost them 180 Syrian pounds — just \$4.

"I've never seen another place like this," said Marcella Baracca, one of the tourists, as she tucked her purchases into her handbag. "If I bought these in Italy or France they would cost me a fortune."

To make European-style perfumes, he imports essence from such countries as France and Switzerland.

"The essence is brought from Europe and is mixed here by us with certain alcohols and Middle Eastern essences to produce replicas of that perfume," he added.

He said his prices were set to match the average Syrian's standard of living.

"Having studied some chemistry I combined my inheritance, a hobby, some scientific knowledge with some extra discoveries of my own..." he said.

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New move launched to ban topless women from Britain's tabloids

By Andrew Gammel
Reuters

LONDON — Every morning, millions of people in Britain turn over the front page of their daily newspaper and stare at a picture of a topless model cheekily exposing her breasts.

The models have become known as "page three girls" from the custom of the popular Daily Sun in placing them on the page that comes instantly to view after opening the paper.

Usually accompanied by captions about "busty blonde Belinda" or "curvy Carolyn", this feature of the popular press is about to be attacked again as part of a long campaign being waged by one of the 41 women in Britain's 650-strong House of Commons.

"There is something deeply wrong with a society that has such a lot of this in circulation," says Clare Short, of the opposition Labour Party.

She tried to ban the pictures by act of parliament 18 months ago, but her bill was laughed off by leading conservatives as "loony feminist nonsense."

Now Short is planning to reintroduce the bill early this year, her campaign boosted by recent rows in Britain's popular press which she hopes will keep some of her critics quiet.

The Star, another paper where the "page three girls" appear, last year struck a publishing deal under which it promised at least 16 breasts per issue, causing leading British supermarket chains to

withdraw their advertising and senior journalists to walk out.

The deal collapsed after just two months and the paper was taken back by its original owners United Newspapers.

Former woman's editor at The Star Alix Palmer said she had left because the pictures of the topless models were no longer as innocent as she once considered them.

"These days they're frequently to be found on their knees with their backsides in the air at one end, and the simpering expression of a bitch on heat at the other," she said.

In a recent debate at Oxford University, Short declared: "Page three is the soft end of pornography, but it's where we need to start, because it's a mass-circulated image that legitimises and leads on to all the rest."

To defend the tabloids, the Oxford students invited 57-year-old Cynthia Payne, who has become a national figure following court cases over parties at her south London home for male guests and prostitutes.

"People were raping long before page three," said Wendy Henry, the first woman to take charge of a British national paper. "Women look at page three too, it's not just men. We take great care to produce classy pictures, not tacky ones."

Short's campaign received a boost against the odds in August when in a poll conducted by The Star readers voted four to three for covering up the models.

as a first reading, the "booby prize" of the parliamentary session.

But the 41-year-old MP from Birmingham and long-time women's rights activist says her campaign is no laughing matter.

She told the Oxford students she had received letters "that would make you cry", from women who had breasts removed who felt hurt and inadequate when their husbands brought the paper home.

"I've had letters from women who've been raped who talk about the fact that the men said in the course of the rape either 'you remind me of page three' or 'you should be on page three'."

Palmer said she had received protests at The Star from women readers. "Women started writing letters after Clare's page three bill because they suddenly realised that there was a woman who was prepared to stand up and fight."

Recently the Weekly News of the World, where topless models also appear, appointed a woman as its new editor.

"These topless pictures of beautiful women don't do any harm. I wish I was young enough to be one myself, and I'm sure I'm not the only one," said Payne, who was acquitted in the most recent court case over her activism.

When Short first launched her campaign, the tabloid newspaper immediately branded her a killjoy, and Conservative MPs awarded her bill, which got as far

as the House of Lords.

should be plenty available when work on altering the look-out plateau is finished. Stones are sold in shops around the Loreley. Germans are big buyers, but so are the Japanese and the Americans — perhaps they like the idea of sending a stone instead of a postcard to the folks back home.

But you don't have to go to Loreley to get a stone. They will send you a piece if you send the money. "We can't send the bigger pieces," explained a chattering spokeswoman. "The postage would be just too expensive."

Rudolf Engen, head of the Loreley promotion society, looks at Loreley from a commercial viewpoint rather than a romantic one. Why, if in Rudesheim they sold cobblestones from the famous Drosselgasse; and if in Remagen 100,000 marks had been made by selling stones from the bridge in the town that had been fiercely contested during the war; then surely souvenirs from Loreley could be sold, too.



Anja Bodenbach, the Loreley queen, and Kurt Schmidt, head of the Loreley promotion society, present pieces of rock together with seal and certificate of authenticity. (Photo: DaD)

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Venezuelan crushes Kim, takes newly-created WBA division title

SEOUL (R) — Venezuela's Leo Gomez won the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight championship with a unanimous 12-round points verdict over South Korean Kim Bong-Jun in Pusan on Sunday.

There were no knockdowns in the close, action-packed fight at the southeastern city. Neither fighter was in any real trouble.

Judge Rodolfo Hill of Panama and Wiso Fernandez of Puerto Rico both scored the fight 116-115 while another judge from Puerto Rico, Roberto Ramirez, made it 115-114 for Gomez, who

is ranked second in the newly-established 47.6-kg division.

The thousands of local fans packing the Pusan Gymnasium booed the decision, believing their top-ranked compatriot was more aggressive.

"I think they stole the fight from me. How can a fighter who received more punishment be a

winner?" Kim said afterwards. Gomez was not immediately available for comment.

Both fighters began briskly, trading hard punches from the beginning as the bout quickly developed into a tireless slugging match.

Kim forced the fight at close range, but had a hard time trying to pierce the Venezuelan's tight guard.

It was the 18th victory in a three-year professional career for Gomez, whose unbeaten record includes 11 knockouts.

The Korean now has a record of 14 wins, five by knockout, five defeats and three draws.

NBA roundup

Lakers beat Pacers; Rockets raid Suns

NEW YORK (AP) — Magic Johnson and James Worthy scored 21 points apiece Saturday night as the Los Angeles Lakers won their 14th consecutive NBA game, rallying in the fourth quarter to beat the Indiana Pacers 101-98.

Byron Scott added 20 points for the Lakers, including a pair of free throws with seven seconds remaining in the game in Indianapolis.

The Pacers led by seven points after one quarter, four at halftime and three points going into the final period.

The Lakers, whose last loss was to Washington a month ago, caught Indiana and took the lead for good at 94-93 on a layup by Worthy with 4:24 remaining.

In a "Knicks-Celtics" match, rookie Mark Jackson matched his season high with 22 points and Sidney Green scored 12 of his season-high 20 in the fourth quarter.

As New York defeated Boston 106-98.

Green scored eight points during a 14-3 spurt that broke a 91-91 tie with 3 minutes left and gave New York a 105-94 lead with 24 seconds remaining.

Jackson also finished with 14 assists for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game losing streak while holding the Celtics to 63 points after the first quarter in the game in New York.

Elsewhere, Charles Barkley scored 35 points and Cliff Robinson added 27 as Philadelphia beat Cleveland 126-110 for their fourth straight victory.

Maurice Cheeks had 17 points and 16 assists for the 76ers in the game in Philadelphia. The 76ers improved their record to 16-15.

Michael Jordan hit the 40-point mark for the sixth time this season with a game-high 45, and Chicago beat Utah Jazz 113-91 for its fourth consecutive NBA

victory.

The Jazz, led by Karl Malone's 25 points and 18 from Thurl Bailey had trailed only 56-54 at halftime, but lost control in the third quarter as Jordan scored 16 points in the game in Chicago.

Bernard King scored 24 points, as Washington handed the Los Angeles Clippers their 10th straight loss, 108-76.

The victory was the Bullets' second in three games since Wes Unseld replaced Kevin Loughery as coach last Sunday. They had lost five straight games before the change. They played the game in Landover, Maryland.

Akeem Olajuwon scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Houston defeated Phoenix 104-98.

Eric Floyd added 15 points and eight assists in the game in Houston, while Purvis Short scored 18 as the Rockets won for the seventh time in nine games.

Olympic flame heading towards target

TORONTO (AP) — Snowmobiles crossed northern Ontario this week carrying the Olympic flame towards Calgary, where preparations almost are complete for the most expensive and longest Winter Olympics in history.

Despite fears that the XV Olympic Winter Games from Feb. 13-28 might be spoiled by a shortage of snow, a New Year cold snap virtually has guaranteed excellent skiing, organisers said.

Computer-controlled snow-making machinery has stockpiled two to three feet (0.6-1 metre) of puffy, artificial snow which even Calgary's occasional mild chinook winds should not melt.

A yeast-like dead bacteria is added to the water to make it explode into larger, more sturdy flakes.

Latecomers still are welcome to attend the games, since 400,000 tickets remain unsold and corporate cancellations have opened up previously unobtainable hotel space, both in Calgary and nearby Banff where 600 rooms were available last week.

"You've got a better chance of getting a room today than you did a year ago," said John Varga, the Olympic Housing Bureau manager.

The bureau also has found places for 4,500 people a night in Calgary homes, either in \$50-dollar (\$38) per couple bed and breakfast-style accommodation, or by renting entire houses at rates up to \$2,300 dollars (\$1,770) a day.

With hotel rooms ranging from \$90 dollars (\$70) to \$220 dollars (\$170) per night, many of the anticipated 75,000 out-of-towners will find it cheaper to stay in youth hostels. The Calgary Fitness Club is offering its floor to sleepy backpackers for 10 dollars (\$7.75) a night.

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Barcelona started to pick up momentum only when England striker Gary Lineker, who had failed to shine in his second season with the club, was brought on in the 72nd minute.

Fernandez was making up for a missed chance two minutes earlier.

Wilson totalled 298 yards passing, completing 20 of 34 attempts.

Carter set up a field goal, one of an NFL post-season-record five in the game by Chuck Nelson, with a 63-yard gain on a reception in the second quarter. Carter caught 10 passes for his total, which broke the record of 198 yards by the Los Angeles Rams' Tom Fears in 1950. Carter also gained 30 yards on an end-around running play.

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U.S., EC press 'four tigers'

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (R) — Trade chiefs of the United States and the European Community (EC) are increasing pressure on Asia's newly industrialised countries to revalue their currencies and reduce trade surpluses to help the battered U.S. dollar.

During an international conference on the Indonesian resort island of Bali at the weekend, the trade representatives said they wanted to see a new attitude from Asia's so-called "four tigers" — Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong.

EC Trade Commissioner Willy De Clercq told reporters the four had enjoyed strong economic growth over the past 20 years and must now be ready to make concessions to help ease the international trading system.

In particular, both the U.S. and the 12-nation EC see the currencies of the four as undervalued and want action to remove trade barriers.

"I am in agreement with others who say their exchange rates have to be adapted to reality, so that (the four) can take part in the collective burden sharing of an improved multi-lateral trading system," Mr. De Clercq stated.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said the tigers must be prepared to accept a greater sense of responsibility for the functioning of the world trading system.

"And that means that people will begin to evaluate how their exchange rates relate to those elsewhere in the world, whether they are opening up their markets as they should, and all the other elements of global economic responsibility," he declared.

U.S. ire is specifically directed against the large trade surpluses built up by Taiwan and South Korea.

"With success comes responsibility," Mr. Yeutter said. "And what we've been saying is that it's

time for those particular countries to do more than they have in the past. They are ready for that. They are capable of doing it politically and economically."

"Among other things," Mr. Yeutter added, "because of some of the trade imbalances which exist today, we also believe their exchange rates do not reflect economic fundamentals and they should."

Hong Kong, whose currency is linked to the U.S. dollar, has strongly resisted a revaluation so far. Taiwan's currency has risen by more than 30 per cent against the dollar since late 1985, while the South Korean won rose nearly nine per cent in 1987.

Taiwan and South Korea had current account surpluses of around \$20.5 and \$9.4 billion respectively in (calendar) 1987, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

jobs under the new plans, which are still being discussed and which are expected to be formally announced before the end of the month.

Mr. Smith estimated that as many as 100 employees have been dismissed within the last two months, 33 of whom were full-time, regular employees terminated to cut back costs. UPI has 1,250 employees, he said.

Mr. Smith said UPI is also considering offering more limited services to news clients, such as a photo-service only service, rather than requiring them to take the basic news report.

He said he did not know how many employees would lose their

Mr. Smith denied that UPI may be looking for a buyer.

UPI plans to restructure operations

WASHINGTON (AP) — United Press International (UPI) is planning to reduce its coverage of U.S. local news and instead concentrate on big stories in an effort to put the company back on a solid financial footing, a UPI spokesman said Saturday.

UPI spokesman Christopher Smith said the company's plans will include scaling back operations in some bureaus and offering different ways of packaging services to client news media.

"We are looking at ways to get UPI back onto a solid financial footing," Mr. Smith said. He said UPI, which is owned by Mexico City businessman Mario Vasquez Rana, has been losing about \$1 million a month.

Kremlin liberalises farming policies

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has drafted new collective farm statutes giving agricultural workers greater scope for private initiative and allowing farms to set up direct trade links with the West.

The draft, published on Sunday in the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, is expected to be discussed at a countrywide congress of collective farmers provisionally scheduled for March, analysts said.

They said the statutes reflected Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's calls for reform to boost agricultural output by creating greater incentives for workers on collective farms.

"The Kolkhoz (collective farm) is a school of communism for the peasantry," the draft stated in a preface.

It made clear there was no intention to weaken the collective farm system which Josef Stalin forcibly created in the early 1930s at a cost estimated by Western

historians at millions of lives. But it restated the principle that membership in a Kolkhoz was voluntary.

The rules say Kolkhoz workers may use the collective's farm machinery and pastures for gardening on private plots and private livestock breeding. Previously families were expected to use their own equipment for gardening on private plots.

The draft formally authorizes use of the "family-contract" system, which allows families to sub-contract work from farm managers with their income tied to results.

In a speech last June, Mr. Gorbachev called for extension of the family- and team-contract systems, saying they had proved highly efficient and material rewards were high.

The draft rules give collective farms the right to establish trade links with agricultural cooperatives in East Bloc countries and with firms in the West and de-

veloping world.

Kolkhozes bear full responsibility for their foreign economic links," the draft says, making clear the state did not intend to bail out loss-making trade ventures.

The farms have also been given the right to set up food processing plants on their premises and to make and sell building materials and consumer goods to firms once they have fulfilled their commitments to the state.

The rules say Kolkhozes have sole responsibility for use of their income and draft their own one- and five-year plans for farm production. Although this was theoretically true in the past, in practice output targets were determined by the state.

Collective farms may rent, sell or lend their equipment and premises to firms or organisations for temporary use. The rules state that they may conclude contracts with individuals, suggesting that hired labour might be possible.

There was hope that confidence would strengthen and lead to sensible rates.

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Tanker war induces Gulf 'pipeline fever'

BAHRAIN (R) — The Gulf tanker war has triggered "pipeline fever" in the region with oil producing states scrambling to build overland pipelines to reduce their dependence on ships to export their major source of income.

Pipeline-mania has captured every Gulf oil state," said one oil analyst in the region, commenting on efforts to move away from tankers vulnerable to attack.

"They all want to safeguard their exports by sending the oil out through other than the Gulf routes," he added.

States bordering the Gulf possess 58 per cent of world's proven oil reserves. Some six million barrels, or one-eighth of non-communist world's oil supplies, pass through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf in tankers every day.

But since Iran and Iraq has reentered the Gulf into the most dangerous stretch of water in the world, disruption of oil flow out of the waterway is a possibility.

Over 440 vessels, mostly tankers, have been attacked since the Iran-Iraq war spilled into the Gulf in 1981.

Iraq exports all its oil by pipeline but Baghdad's Gulf Arab backers are open to Iranian attack and the Iraqi air force pounds Iranian ships.

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Panamanian leader in Dominican Republic

Panama calm after rumours of Noriega abandoning power

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Panama's military strongman, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, arrived in the Dominican Republic and told reporters he came for a private visit.

Gen. Noriega denied the trip had anything to do with politics in Panama, where opposition groups have held frequent demonstrations demanding he step down as head of the country's powerful armed forces.

But Gen. Noriega's departure sparked rumours in Panama that he had fled into exile.

In Panama City, an estimated 1,000 people gathered in the capital's banking district. Many waved white handkerchiefs as they had in previous demonstrations. Others honked car horns and banged on pots and pans.

Last Saturday, dozens of riot police fired tear gas and dispersed the crowd. Witnesses said several people were arrested, but there was no report of injuries or estimate of the number arrested.

The military issued a communiqué saying Gen. Noriega was away only for the weekend.

Channel 2 Television quoted the Armed Forces Public Relations Office as saying, "our commander left Panama today

(Saturday) on a private flight to the Dominican Republic where he will spend the weekend and then return Monday to take charge of his official duties."

But Donald Reid Cabral, foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, said Gen. Noriega was in Santo Domingo for a five-day visit.

Mr. Reid Cahral, speaking with reporters Saturday night, said the Dominican government had no official word of Gen. Noriega's visit until a Panamanian military plane was en route to Santo Domingo on Saturday.

He said there was no official welcoming ceremony for the general. Gen. Noriega was met at the airport by the Panamanian ambassador and two other Panamanian officials.

Gen. Noriega, dressed in blue jeans, a sports shirt, tennis shoes and a cloth hat, arrived on an Panamanian Air Force plane at Las Americas Airport at 2:15 p.m. (1915 GMT) and spoke briefly with reporters.

8 killed in Burma train explosion

RANGOON (R) — Eight people were killed and 38 injured when a bomb exploded in a crowded express train approaching Rangoon on Sunday, Burmese radio reported.

The radio said the bomb was thought to have been planted under a train seat by the Karen National Union (KNU), one of several insurgent groups fighting Burma's Socialist rulers.

The radio said the explosion

ripped through the passenger carriage at 8:45 a.m. (0215 GMT) killing five men, two women and one male child.

The train had travelled overnight from Mandalay to the north. Railway officials said earlier no foreigners were among the casualties.

The Burmese army has been engaged in an offensive against the KNU, which operates from bases near the eastern border with Thailand, and last November a senior official predicted the movement would be crushed within two years.

The KNU is one of about a dozen groups fighting the government in rebellions dating back 40 years, but there have been few reports in the past that they extended their struggle to attacking civilian targets.

U.S. delays sending tortured boy to Zimbabwe

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Supreme Court justice has ordered a delay in the return to Zimbabwe of a nine-year-old boy allegedly tortured by his diplomat father, spokesmen said.

The order by Justice Harry Blackmun sets aside an appeals court ruling that the boy be transferred from foster care to the State Department, which had pledged to send him back to Africa, a Supreme Court spokesman said.

He said the order was issued pending a Supreme Court review

of the Terence Karamba case, which has become an international tug-of-war.

The boy's father, Floyd Karamba, an attaché at Zimbabwe's mission to the United Nations, returned to his homeland last month after city officials removed the boy from his custody and charged that he beat and tortured Terrence with an electrical cord.

Zimbabwe has accused the United States of kidnapping Terrence. Lawyers representing the youngster say fears for his life

and President Reagan says he has been assured that no harm would come to the boy if he was returned home.

A State Department spokesman, Dennis Harter, said Judge Blackmun's order was issued about noon on Saturday, shortly before the deadline for handing the boy over to the department.

Judge Blackmun also ordered that briefs in the case be supplied to the Supreme Court by Tuesday evening, Mr. Harter said, adding that no decision was likely on the boy's future before Wednesday.

Exiled Afghan king may try to unite country, paper says

LONDON (AP) — Afghanistan's deposed King Mohammad Zahir Shah may be recalled from his exile in Italy to unite quarrelling factions in his homeland and form an interim government to end the war there, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

The Observer said it interviewed the 73-year-old king at his villa near Rome and he said he was ready to return home on a peace mission without seeking to restore the monarchy.

"All I want is to restore the

unity and prosperity of my country after this terrible war," the king was quoted as saying.

The report said the peace plan was the idea of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It said Dr. Kissinger asked Occidental Oil magnate Armand Hammer — a friend of the king and associate of Soviet leaders for many years — to get approval of the plan from the king, from Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and Soviet Foreign Policy Adviser Dobrynin.

The bidding is to restore the

Haiti disqualifies Duvalierists as candidates

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The government-appointed electoral council has announced that it has approved the candidacies of 11 presidential contenders and disqualified 11 others, including eight former officials of the deposed Duvalier government.

The communiqué was signed by Electoral Council President Jean Gilbert and broadcast on the state-run television and radio stations.

Haiti's junta has scheduled the elections for Jan. 17.

Among the 11 candidates not approved were Duvalier supporters including Clovis Desnor, Claude Raymond and Alphonse Lahens.

No explanation was given for the disqualifications Saturday. Haiti's constitution has all Duvalier supporters from running for public office for a period of 10 years.

After the announcement by the Electoral Council, no violence or gunfire was reported. This city of 1 million was quiet.

The military said the Balbanan defenders included former NPA rebels who used to serve under renegade Catholic priest Conrado Balweg.

Balweg, whose rebel command was made up largely of mountain tribesmen, broke with the Communists and allied himself with President Corazon Aquino last year after she promised autonomy to the region.

The military said the delay in sending reinforcements to Balbanan was caused by poor communications in remote Kalinga-Apayao province.

All but one of the 11 candidates approved by the government-appointed Electoral Council had also been approved by the independent Electoral Council, which was dissolved by the ruling junta hours after the cancellation of the Nov. 29 vote.

Usually, there is more than one line that gives you a chance for your contract. See if you can spot all South's options and find a way to combine them.

The bidding is not what we would call scientific. South did not have the machinery to probe for all he needed to know, but we are sure we could not have done any better than he did.

As to the play, there is no prob-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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DAME FORTUNE LENDS A HAND

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ ♦ J 10 ♡ A
V 10 ♣ 5
C 6 ♦ 2
♦ ♦ 6

EAST

♦ ♦ 9 ♦ 5
V K Q J 8 3 2
V 7 6
♦ ♦ 3
♦ ♦ 7 2

SOUTH

♦ ♦ ♦ 9
V A
♦ A K 8 3
♦ ♦ A K Q J 10 ♣ 8 4

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♦ 2 ♠ Pass Pass

3 ♦ ♦ Pass ♦ ♦ Pass

4 ♦ ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

How many rounds of trumps can you afford to draw? Not one. If you draw even one trump, you run the risk of the player with four diamonds being able to lead a second trump, which would prevent you from ruffing your fourth diamond.

So you win the ace of hearts perforce and cash the ace-king of diamonds. When both live, you are well on your way. Lead another diamond. If the suit splits 3-3, you can claim. Unfortunately, East turns up with four diamonds, so now you will need a bit of luck.

If East returns a heart, you ruff, draw one round of trumps and, when the seven does not fall, you lead your last diamond and hope West does not have the missing trump. Your prayers will be answered.

If West is a shrewd defender, he will return a fourth diamond immediately. Now all you can do is follow suit and pray that West was not dealt the seven. Again, all is well and the slam comes home.

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lem if diamonds break 3-3. However, that is against the odds. If they do split 4-2, you have to hope for one of two possibilities. Either the player with four diamonds has at least two trumps, or the player with the short diamonds does not have the seven of trumps.

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Two constables were also shot dead in a rebel ambush in Batangas, north west of the capital Manila.

The newspapers said the milita-

Thatcher wants Mandela freed

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wants the South African white minority government to free Nelson Mandela before she visits the country, British press reports said Sunday.

Last year, one of Gen. Noriega's daughters, Sandra, married the son of former Dominican Gen. Juan Reina Bauchamps Javier, who served as minister of the armed forces in 1978.

Gen. Noriega's critics have said he dominates the civilian government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and accused him of drug trafficking and ordering the assassination of political opponents.

A U.S. official in Washington said Friday that Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security, met recently with Gen. Noriega in Panama and urged him to allow free elections and democratic reforms.

The official, speaking with the condition he not be identified, said Mr. Armitage did not give Gen. Noriega an ultimatum or resign.

The official said Mr. Armitage told Gen. Noriega "it's time to open up the system, it's time for democracy."

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